



United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit

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NEWS RELEASE

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Ninth Circuit Offers Ideas for Alternative Dispute Resolution Programs

SAN FRANCISCO – The Ninth Circuit Committee on Alternative Dispute Resolution has released a publication designed to assist federal judges and attorneys in developing educational programs focusing on arbitration, mediation and other means of resolving legal conflicts.

The new "Education Programs on Court-Sponsored ADR: Model Programs and Guide to Resources," offers numerous ideas on how to organize and implement ADR educational programs. It is intended for use by those planning bench-bar events, such as the annual conferences held by many of the federal district courts within the circuit.

The guide was developed by the Ninth Circuit Committee on ADR and the Western Justice Center Foundation, a non-profit organization based in Pasadena that researches, designs and implements programs in conflict resolution and the administration of justice.

"The Western Justice Center has always been interested in collaborating with other institutions to increase public awareness of the benefits of ADR," said Senior Circuit Judge Dorothy Nelson, who chairs both the Ninth Circuit committee and governing board of the Western Justice Center Foundation.

Funding for the printing of the publication was provided by the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS) Foundation, a non-profit group that gives financial support for conflict resolution initiatives.

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"The JAMS Foundation is delighted to have been able to support this ADR Resource Guide for the federal courts," said Jay Folberg, executive director of the JAMS Foundation. "We believe it will provide a very useful framework for improving the quality and consistency of federal court-based ADR programs."

The guide contains a series of lesson plans for sessions at annual district conferences, Judge Nelson said. It addresses a variety of topics, from initiating dialogue among judges, lawyers and clients, to understanding the needs of corporate clients, to timing issues and implications for litigants, attorneys and court personnel. It also provides an overview of the ADR process and contains contact information for court resources.

"The program guide is intended to be a living document," Judge Nelson said. "The ADR Committee intends to update it periodically to add modules that respond to the districts' needs and suggestions to update the existing modules."

The guide will be distributed to chief district judges of federal jurisdictions, as well as lawyer representatives who represent the federal bar practicing in the 15 judicial districts of the Ninth Circuit. An electronic version is also available on the ADR committee's web site at **www.ce9.uscourts.gov/adr**.

The Western Justice Center Foundation works with communities, courts, governments and schools to assure peaceful conflict resolution, and assists courts and administrative agencies in improving access to justice. The JAMS Foundation encourages the use of alternative dispute resolution, supports education at all levels about collaborative processes for resolving differences, promotes innovation in conflict resolution, and advances the settlement of conflict worldwide.

The United States Courts for the Ninth Circuit consists of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and the district and bankruptcy courts and related court units for the Districts of Alaska, Arizona, Northern California, Central California, Eastern California, Southern California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Eastern Washington, Western Washington, the U.S. Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

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